DIOCESE OF OXFORD
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
www.oxford.anglican.org
November 2014 no 262

thedoor

Around the Deaneries: Claydon

Thames Path Pilgrimage - page 11

The Grand Day Out - Centrespread

Win a Real Advent Calendar - page 5

Bishop John's farewell thoughts - page 15

AdventurePlus secures funding for new base

A YEAR ago youth adventure charity Adventure Plus started fundraising to have £500,000 in place for the first stage of buying and transforming the Windmill Farm Conference Centre in Clanfield.

The charity, founded 20 years ago, already works with 6,000 children and young people each year, from this diocese and further afield including London and Birmingham. As the fundraising began, money began to roll in, and was completed when the collection at the Grand Day out raised the last £3,000 necessary to purchase the centre.

AdventurePlus already had planning consent for the property, which includes fifty acres of open fields and woodland, and disused outbuildings which will provide the footprint of the AdventureBase.

The owners allowed AdventurePlus to buy the entire property over three years, so fundraising efforts must continue to have another £500,000 in place next year, and the same amount the following year.

Jon Cox, Executive Director, said: "Over the course of the last year, so many people from within the diocese and further afield, have caught the vision for the potential benefits to thousands of young people for decades to come, and donations have been flooding in towards this challenging total."

At the end of the summer, with five weeks to go, they took stock of the finances to see how close to the target they were. Taking into account all donations, pledges, and Gift Aid, they had raised a staggering £450,000. A hugely encouraging and impressive total – but still £50,000 short.

Jon wrote to Bishop Colin in mid-September stating that: "With £50,000 still to raise, this effectively meant that we needed to raise £10,000 per week until the deadline. No pressure there then.

"About three minutes later Maria, our book keeper, came in with our latest bank statement, and on it was a donation of £10,000," says Jon. As more and more funds rolled in, including a £7,500 donation from a church in Kentish Town, the AdventurePlus team became more and more amazed.

It was in the last week of September that Canon Dr Michael Beasley, Director of Mission at the Oxford Diocese, called with the news that the offering from the Grand Day Out open air service had raised £3,000.

"I was able to tell him the exciting news that this would bring us over the line. Along with so many other donations that challenging total of £500,000 had now come in and we would be able to 'Exercise the Option' on Windmill Farm and start to plan the purchase. We would like to thank the many who have contributed to help make this vision come to life, and a very big 'thank you' to Bishop John for inviting them to bring our climbing wall to the 'Grand Day Out' and choosing to channel the offering from the day to the AdventureBase.

"Of course the real joy underlying all this is that thousands of children and young adults will come to know, as a result of their visit to the AdventureBase, the life-changing good news of the gospel and that they are never alone - but rather greatly loved by our Heavenly Father.

"Now that really is good news and will continue to yield much cause for celebration as these adventures unfold in the months and years ahead."

On the website

See **www.adventureplus.org.uk/** for more information and to find out how you can get involved in the next phase of fundraising.

The harsh realities of homelessness

Above: Volunteers are welcomed to the Windsor sleepout. Below: Jonny Ball sings a lullabye at Byte Night in Reading. *Photos: Windsor Christian Action and Action for Children.*

VOLUNTEERS experienced the harsh realities of sleeping rough during two awareness and fundraising events in Berkshire last month.

As autumnal weather saw temperatures drop, Windsor Christian Action arranged for the Windsor Sleepout. The event raised funds for the Windsor Homeless Project.

The Revd David Dadswell said: "About 38 people took part ranging from people in the teens to people in their seventies, from a range of denominations in Windsor, from the local community and from local businesses. We look like we'll reach the £6,000 fund raising target. The Deputy Mayor, James Evans, slept overnight with us. He has strong connections with several churches in Windsor."

Meanwhile in Reading, more than 150 people from tech and business sectors were sleeping in Forbury Gardens in Reading, to raise funds for homelessness services run by Action for Children. After a short warm-up in St Laurence's Church, staff from a range of Berkshire businesses joined the eighth Thames Valley Byte Night.

Sally Hanson, marketing communications director at SAS and co-chair of the Thames Valley Byte Night board, said: "A huge thank you to all the teams that took part in what was the definitely our best Byte Night yet.

"It was fantastic to see so many people leave their comforts behind to help us ensure children and young people can have a safe place to call home."

New Dean is installed at Christ Church

THE Very Revd Martyn Percy signs the documents during his installation service at Christ Church in October. Martyn joins Christ Church from Ripon College, Cuddesdon, where he was principal. He was installed during a special Evensong service that saw a packed cathedral on Saturday 4 October. ***Photo Ralph Williamson.***

Children from Fritwell CE School in Oxfordshire took part in a sponsored bike ride. Read the full story online at www.oxford.anglican.org

Act now to end gender violence

by *Maranda St John Nicolle*

It's a simple poster on the back of a church's toilet door. "Does your partner..." it asks, "...make you feel ugly and useless? ...cut you off from family and friends? ... threaten you to get their own way?"

The questions continue ... and then there's an offer: "Would you like help to change your situation? You can call 0808 2000 247 to ask for help." The number is that of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and the poster is an initiative of Restored, a Christian charity that is working to end violence against women and to promote right relationships.

A women's toilet, the charity recognises, is one of the few places that a woman in an abusive relationship may be able safely to see and respond to a way out of a difficult situation. We may not like to think that people in churches can suffer from domestic abuse – or to talk in our churches about abuse or sexual violence. But surveys have shown that domestic abuse is a reality inside the church, as well as outside it. And sexual violence affects women of all religions, races and classes – here and around the world.

Local churches are displaying the poster, but also taking action in other ways. At St Laurence, Winslow, the Mothers' Union marks the annual Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence, which take place between 25 November and 10 December, by collecting materials for a women's refuge. Angela Bowe, branch leader, notes that they do so with an awareness of both the local and the global: "While supporting those at home who are suffering in violent relationships, we pray for those abroad."

The diocese's bishops are also supportive: this year, as last, they will wear white ribbons on the 25th of November, to symbolise a pledge men can take to stand against violence against women. **www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk.** The Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, said: "Like others I wore the white ribbon last year and I hope that many others around the Diocese will show their support for this important initiative in a similar way."

If your church would like to join in prayer and/or action, there are many resources. The Mothers Union has produced a downloadable action pack, available at **www.mothersunion.org/content/16-days-activism-pack** and Restored offers a variety of materials – from Bible studies to the poster to "First Man Standing," a programme for men who want to make a difference : **www.restoredrelationships.org.** You can also contact Alison Webster, Social Responsibility Adviser on alison.webster@oxford.anglican.org.

Appointing our new Bishop

A PUBLIC meeting about the appointment of a new Bishop of Oxford takes place at Christ Church Cathedral, in Oxford on 11 November at 7.15pm.

Please use the prayer written for the Vacancy in See process. It can be found on the Prayer Diary page in *the Door Way*. More details on the appointment of a new bishop will be included in the December edition of *the Door*.

For more information on how you can air your views on the appointment of the new bishop, including the addresses of the Vacancy in See Appointments' Secretaries, see **www.oxford.anglican.org/newbishop**

St George's Centenary

ON its 100th anniversary St George's Church, Wash Common, Newbury announced the completion of a five-year overhaul that sees it fit for purpose as a warm and welcoming new facility.

The celebrations marked the church becoming fully insulated with under-floor heating, a new stone floor and a re-modelled chancel. It's an ideal space for lectures, concerts, rehearsals and music lessons/practice. The vicar, the Revd Paul Cowan says: "Our aim is for St George's to be an active part of community life, heated with renewable energy, extensively used by local residents and as a flagship model for others to learn from and be encouraged by."

A new outdoor learning space

Children join with the Mayor of Bracknell to cut the ribbon on the Binfield Open Learning Environment. ***Photo: Binfield CE Primary School.***

A DISUSED nature reserve has been transformed into an outdoor learning area used for gruffalo hunts and other imaginative games at Binfield CE Primary School.

Staff, children, Waitrose staff and the Mayor of Bracknell, Cllr Denise Hamilton, turned up in waterproofs and wellingtons to celebrate the opening of the Binfield Open Learning Environment last month. The project began because headteacher, Suzie Featherstone-Wright wanted the overgrown area to be developed into what is now the Binfield Open Learning Environment. She wanted chidren to be able to learn all elements of the curriculum outdoors. The parents association, FOBS began helping to clear weeds and brambles at weekends.

Finally, one of the FOBS members, Helen Maberley, got in touch with Waitrose. Supermarket staff came down and cleared the weeds during the summer holidays. They built tables, developed pond and growing areas, painted the side of a classroom, and created a fantastic learning environment that the children could use.

Children have been building dens, being outlaws to inspire writing in the theme of Robin Hood, being spies and taking part in a Gruffalo hunt, since the area was completed.

The Waitrose staff also shared in photographs of the children's experiences, and finally, witnessed the mayor cut the ribbon to open the area officially, during their visit. Special balloons were released by some of the children and Waitrose workers to celebrate the opening, and cakes were supplied to the children to commemorate the event.

Churches urged to help save lives this Advent

CHURCHES across the diocese are being given the opportunity to save more lives this Christmas with the news that the UK Government has pledged to match Christian Aid's Christmas fundraising.

With a strapline of **Not every child born in a stable survives**, the charity is urging churches to back its Christmas appeal which focuses on the struggle many mothers face – as Mary did – to find a safe place in which to give birth.

Whatever money the charity raises during the three months from 7 November, the Government will match it up to a maximum of £5m which will be spent on maternal healthcare projects run by Christian Aid partners in Kenya and Malawi.

Christian Aid's regional coordinator for Oxford, Anwen Newman, said: "This is an amazing opportunity for churches and supporters to literally help bring bundles of joy to the world this Christmas time.

"It is the 21st century. It makes me sad and angry that just over the ocean in Kenya, every day, 40 women die in childbirth due to complications in pregnancy. We celebrate the birth of Jesus - but every year, without the care they need, 14,700 babies die on their first day of life. How might they have changed the world?"

"This Christmas, we are inviting churches to place the crib at the heart of their celebrations and be part of this transformational work.

"I am appealing to all churchgoers to work with us so we can use the government's generosity to deliver hope to thousands of families living in poverty."

Hear Stephen Ngugi, from the charity's Kenya Office talk about maternal health work in Kenya, at Advent events:

Afternoon prayer retreat: Amersham

Thursday 27 November at 2pm
Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham HP6 6AJ

An Evening with Stephen Ngugi: Amersham

Thursday 27 November at 7.30pm
Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham HP6 6AJ

Advent hope service: Oxford

Friday 28 November at 8pm
Magdalen College Chapel, Oxford OX1 4AU
Carols by candlelight with stories of hope in a beautiful setting.

Advent retreat: Berkshire

Saturday 29 November
10.30am – 4pm
Mortimer Methodist Church, Mortimer (near Reading) RG7 3TB
A time to stop and reflect at the start of the Advent season.
Lunch is provided – donations welcome.

For ideas on holding a fundraiser in your church or any aspect of the Christmas appeal contact Anwen on 01865 246818 or ANewman@christian-aid.org

Disinvestment from fossil fuels

IN February, the Bracknell Deanery Synod passed a motion calling for the Church of England Investment bodies to disinvest from fossil fuels. This will be debated in the Oxford Diocesan Synod in November. Prior to this, the Cowley Deanery will be debating a similar motion. The information and discussion evening held in St Mary and St John Church in Cowley in October provided an opportunity to consider the scientific, theological and economic concerns that lie behind this motion. Read a full report at **www.oxford.anglican.org/disinvestment.**

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Help Us and the church in Zambia reach out to women facing domestic violence.

Pray with Us for the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. Use our special prayers on Sunday 16 or Sunday 23 November.

Act with Us by ordering friendship bracelet packs for yourself and your church. One to wear as a reminder to pray. One to return to Us to send with your message of support to a woman like Evelyn (pictured) who has experienced abuse.

One Us supporter wrote: 'My prayers are with you. I know how painful escaping from an abusive relationship can be. Stay the course, and God be with you.'

Order bracelet packs and download worship resources at www.weareUs.org.uk/bracelet

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Us. The new name for USPG

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Chocolate calendar countdown to a Kenyan baby clinic

The Meaningful Chocolate Company is hoping to equip a baby clinic in Kenya by donating £10,000 from sales of its 2014 Real Advent Calendar.

However, it is not just the charitable donation that makes The Real Advent Calendar unique. Behind its first giant window is a 32-page Christmas story-activity booklet, designed to be used every day in Advent. The booklet gives more detail about the Christmas story and has seven Advent challenges. The calendar also comes with 25 Fairtrade Belgian chocolates and a line of the Christmas story behind each of the foiled windows.

David Marshall, from The Meaningful Chocolate Company, said: "By buying this advent calendar people can share the Christmas story throughout December. This is really important as we know that detailed knowledge of the Christmas story is very low amongst children and parents."

Launching this year's calendar TV presenter, Diane Louise Jordan, said: "Not only is the calendar educational and made from Fairtrade chocolate but it's a great opportunity to raise funds to help equip and support The Funzi and Bodo Trust baby clinic in Kenya.There many people live in poverty and without access to clean water and basic sanitation. The clinic is doing an amazing job by making sure people who are sick receive treatment and also offering new educational opportunities - which I hope will give children the chance of a better future."

See www.funzi.org.uk for more on the clinic.

On the website

Retailers include larger Tesco stores, Traidcraft, Eden, Shared Earth, CLC and a number of cathedrals. They can also be ordered from **www.realadvent.co.uk.**

Win a Real Advent Calendar

As we prepare for the season of Advent, *the Door* has teamed up with the Meaningful Chocolate Company to offer three Real Advent Calendars to the winners of this month's competition.

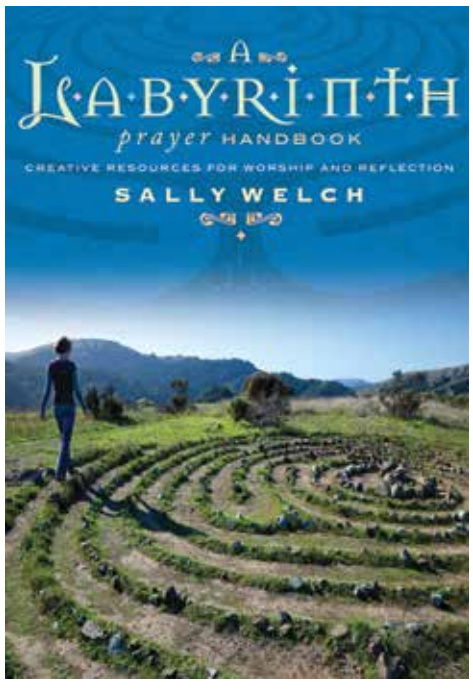
For the chance to win one of these chocolate filled treats, simply send your name and address to The Real Advent Calendar Competition, The Door, Diocesan Church House, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford, OX2 0NB. The closing date for entries is Friday 7 November. The Real Advent Calendar costs £3.99.

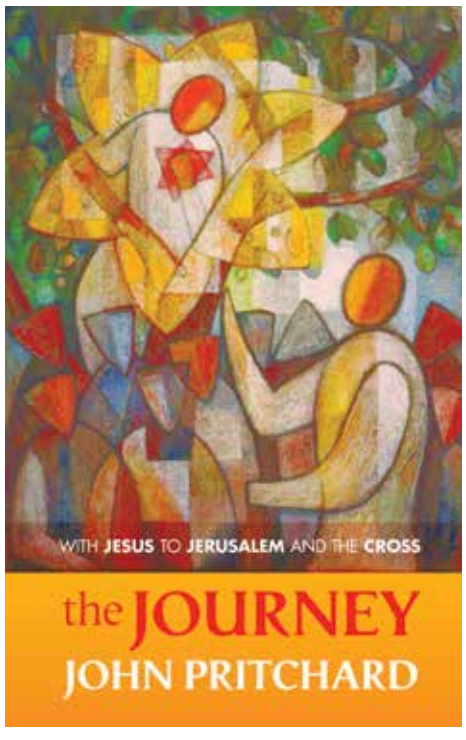
Competition winners

Congratulations to the winners of our competition in the *School Door* in September - Mr Guy from Quenington and Marion McNaught from Bletchingdon both won a family ticket to the Harvest Day at Cogges Farm.

Congratulations to the winners of our book giveaway from the October edition of *the Door* - R Griffiths from Milton Keynes; Mrs Davis from Woodstock and Mr Buzzard from Banbury have all won a copy of Mary Berry's autobiography *Recipe for Life.*

Double book launch this month





A DOUBLE book launch takes place at the Blackwells book store in Oxford this month.

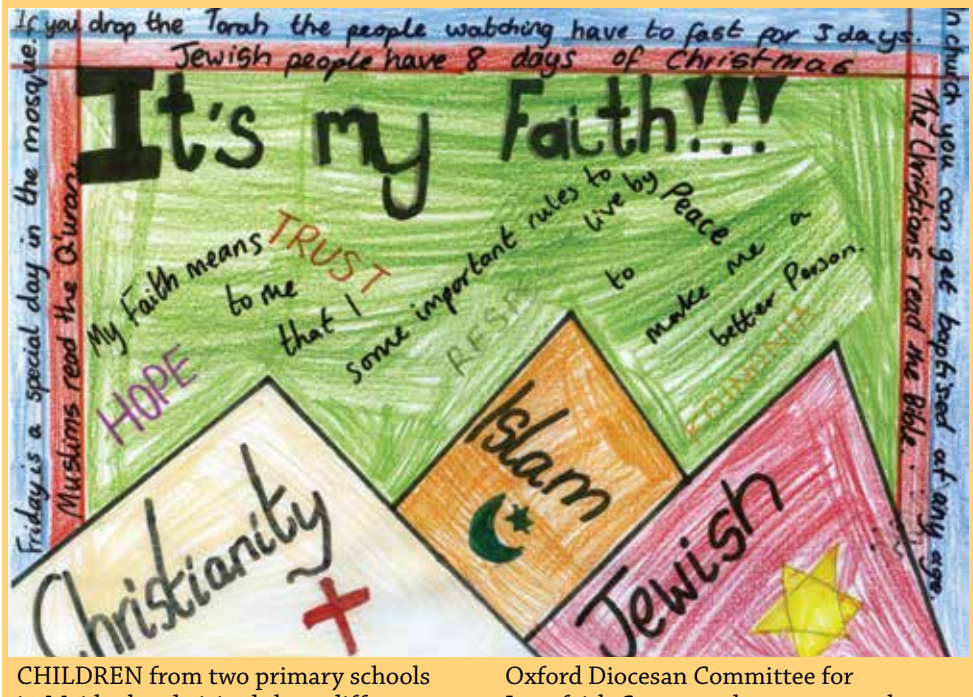
The Journey, by Bishop John and published by SPCK and *A Labyrinth Prayer Handbook* by Sally Welch, will both be launched at Blackwells Bookshop on Friday 7 November.

The Journey follows Luke's chronology from Luke 9.51, as Jesus 'set his face to go to Jerusalem'. It offers daily weekday readings for Lent taking the reader to Jerusalem in the company of Jesus. Life in his company is not for the faint-hearted. Certainly there's fun, as you lark about with the other young disciples. But it's pretty edgy too, not knowing who is going to turn up next. And as the days pass by, the huge demands on Jesus as he heals and teaches invoke both a strange tenderness, and a growing dread of why exactly you are journeying to the holy city.

A Labyrinth Prayer Handbook follows on from Sally's introductory *Walking the Labyrinth*. It provides ideas for using labyrinths in different settings, with children, those with learning difficulties, the elderly, in hospices, during retreats and during different seasons.

The Very Revd Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church, will be speaking at the book launch, at Blackwells on Broad Street, from 7pm. To buy tickets, which cost £3 call Blackwells on 01865 333623.

This is my faith



CHILDREN from two primary schools in Maidenhead visited three different places of worship as part of an interfaith project.

The Revd Sally Lynch, Vicar of St Luke's Church, Maidenhead and a Governor at St Luke's CE Primary School, arranged for year six pupils to visit the church as well as Maidenhead Mosque and Maidenhead Synagogue. Children from St Luke's and from Riverside School took part in the *This is My Faith* project, producing posters and written accounts of what they learnt. Above is one of the colourful posters the children created, reflecting what they learnt about each faith.

Sally, who is also a member of the Oxford Diocesan Committee for Interfaith Concerns, hopes to run the project again, including the Roman Catholic primary that is in the parish.

At each place of worship it was expected that some of the pupils from the multi cultural community would be members. They introduced and interviewed key leaders from their faith communities and explained what each of the buildings were used for. Foods used in spiritual life were shared and their significance to the faiths explained.

Back at school pupils considered what the faiths share in common, what is different and how they might live, work and play together.

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27th - 28th February 2015

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Sir Mark Moody-Stuart … Sunniva Taylor … Tessa Tennant ...Paul Valentin

The conference will be chaired by the Rt. Revd Michael Doe, Chair of ECCR.

Tickets: Dinner and Conference: Full price £30/ student concessions £20 Conference only: Full price £15/ student concessions £10

For enquiries and bookings, email eccroxfordgroup@hotmail.com www.eccr.org.uk/events

Around the Deaneries - Claydon

THE Revd David Meakin has been Rector of the Schorne Team in rural Buckinghamshire for 10 years. He is also Area Dean of the Claydon Deanery.

He moved from Sunderland and knew it was the right job for him as he drove down south, through Winslow and Buckingham to the Aylesbury Vale and immediately loved the place.

Vital statistics:

Area Dean: David Meakin
Lay Chair: Andy Dee-Crowne
Clergy: 9
Churches: 20
Benefices: 3

I met David in his Rectory in Whitchurch, where he told me how he had worked in London and at Durham Cathedral, where he first met Bishop John, before working in post-industrial Sunderland. "It was time to move and I knew this was the right place. In Sunderland, David's patch had a population of 7,500 with one church. Here, the benefice has a population of 7,500 with 11 church buildings. That means 11 buildings that are steeped in history, but at the same time are a challenge to maintain.

And, proportionally, a high number of people attend church. "In a small village where 18 people attend church out of 100, that is 18 per cent of the population. If that had been the situation in my last place, which was more urban, we would have had to knock the building down and build something a lot bigger."

The populations of the villages are broadly made up of either retired people or those aged 35 to 45 who commute to London or Oxford or Milton Keynes.

For these rural areas Christmas and Harvest are the biggest festivals and as I drove out to Whitchurch from Oxford I noticed the high number of harvesting vehicles out on the roads and in the fields.

"The people buying houses are successful and not working locally."

David said: "In these little villages the church is one of the last public buildings and much more at the heart of the local community. It's as much about ministering to a population as a congregation and the line between the sacred and the secular is much more blurred. We are being called to look at how we use our buildings for the sake of the community."

As a Church school grows

A VILLAGE infants' school that had just 17 pupils and looked set to close has now got 75 children and is a thriving school.

Westcott CE School was one of Buckinghamshire's smallest with just four to six children per year group, for children aged up to seven. However in 2008 a nursery class opened and since then has expanded to become a primary school, providing education for children aged up to 11.

The school has forged strong links with St Mary the Virgin Church, starting with holding its end of term performances there, but is also looking into using the building for more activities. Barry Grace, headteacher, said: "This was a vision that was shared with the Revd Mary Cruddas, Anne Davey, Diocesan Director of Education and Lesley Turville, the Diocesan Schools advisor. They helped to visualise how the school and church could work more closely to support and grow with one another."

Now the school holds collective worship in church four times each week, with the Wednesday assembly open to parents and villagers. The church also has a breakfast service for families once a month on a Sunday, which has helped forge links with families in the village. Barry added: "We are always looking to make more use of the wonderful facility that is right on our doorstep. The expansion of the school and the work with Mary has certainly brought the community closer together. I feel that we have certainly been blessed."

The school was featured in the Door last year when it won a High Sheriff's Award Certificate for its Forest Garden.

(Picture above, by KT Bruce.)

In the Schorne Team Ministry

THE Revd Jim Gorringe is a Methodist minister who is a team minister in the Schorne Team which recently celebrated the 700th anniversary of its patron, the Revd John Schorne.

The story, featured in *the Door*, made the national *Telegraph* with a picture of a lead alloy pilgrim badge found near London Bridge in 1982. The Schorne Team of 11 churches celebrated the 700th anniversary of John Schorne's death with a huge festival earlier this year, raising £4,000 for hospices in Aylesbury and Milton Keynes. (See the June 2014 edition of *the Door* for the full story. Bishop Alan is pictured right with the Schorne well. (*Photo: Heidi Meakin.*) The pilgrim badge was made into a chancel floor stone which was dedicated by Bishop John at a special service.

Jim joined the Schorne Team in 2011 and despite being a Methodist minister, is called 'vicar' by the people who worship in his church. "When I retired I was officially appointed to this house for duty post," he said.

"I have been here coming up for three years and the positive thing is that working in the Schorne Team feels very much like a Methodist Circuit. We all meet on Tuesdays and get on incredibly well together.

"The longer you are in a place the more people know you and I am a vicar as far as they are concerned. My wife, Pamela, and I both felt very much that this was the right move for us here in North Marston. "We have developed a café church when we take a service in the village hall." As he spoke to *the Door* Jim was setting up a tea time service for Oving, and hoping to encourage families to attend.

A Christian ethos at the heart of the school

A CHRISTIAN ethos group puts students at Waddesdon CE School at the heart of planning how to ensure the school maintains an Anglican identity.

The group was set up in response to a 2006 SIAMS inspection. The statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools focuses on the effect the Christian ethos of a church school has on the pupils who attend it.

The school has strong links with local churches and even has its own Christian Ethos Group. Peter Norman, the Principal, said: "It gives students the opportunity to move forward ideas of how to ensure the school has a Christian identity."

The group meets five or six times a year and plans Holy Communion services for students as well as praise and thanksgiving events.

Sam and Holly are both year 12 students who have been members of the group since they were in year nine. Sam says: "Our thanksgiving service is a celebration of everything that the school does. We will all go down to the church and have a bit of a celebration. Last year we had dance and music in the service. It works really well celebrating everything that the students have got to offer. It's a little reminder, especially as you are taking A levels and studying less subjects, of what other departments around the school are doing."

Holly says: "We organise Holy Communion. I was in year nine when it started and we thought it would be a nice way of getting the local vicar involved. It gets bigger and better every time. After each service we look at what we could have done better."

The group also ensures Christian signs and symbols are displayed around the school. Sam says: "Where we have got various spaces in the school it's nice to think actually that one is looking empty and we have been able to put some art work up there. One of our media students produced a canvas cross. The things we use are symbols that embody our religion but in a non-intrusive way."

Each year a Bible verse is given to students, staff and visitors. This year it is *Jeremiah 6 vs 16: "This is what the Lord says: stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.'"*

Mr Norman offers suggestions and the students vote on which they want to adopt. Holly, along with another student, Kate leads prayers every Friday in assembly.

Prayer stations in the library. ***Photo Waddesdon CE School.***

Sam says: "It is good to be in a school where religion can be discussed. It broadens our horizons for later life. If you come from a different religion that is completely fine. Every background is accepted here and we know that everyone is different." A representative of Aylesbury Mosque has been among the speakers at Waddesdon.

Having a Gra

AROUND 2,500 people flocked to Oxford for the Grand Day Out event, complete with the opportunity to say goodbye to the Bishop of Oxford. The Rt Revd John Pritchard, who retires at the end of October, preached at an open air communion service, and was presented with a leaving card and gifts at the conclusion of the day-long celebration.

The Grand Day Out provided everything from in-depth speakers to a bouncy castle and puppet show for children across a variety of venues in Oxford city centre. The organising team's prayers were answered when the rain held off for the whole of Saturday 20 September.

Claire Lewis, of St Andrew's, Oxford, said: "I think it's great that everyone has come together from the four archdeaconries. We don't have many opportunities for people to get together from so many different places and who have so many different types of churchmanship."

Andrew and Jane Jowitt, from St Lawrence's, Bradwell, Milton Keynes, said: "We went to the Living the Difference Café in St Ebbe's and to hear Ruth Valerio speak at St Michael at the North Gate. We then went on to Emma Bridgewater and Matthew Rice and were trying to spot other people from our church."

"I think it is great that everyone has come together from the four archdeaconries."

The Revd Richard Lamey, from St Paul's, Wokingham, was proudly displaying a banner made up for his church's 150th anniversary service. He was having a picnic in Christ Church with members of his church. He said: "Some people here heard Mary Berry. We went to the Messy Fiesta and then back to the bouncy castle. There was such a range of things to do that everyone has had a problem deciding which things to go to."

After communion Bishop John left Christ Church Meadow in the side car of a vintage-style motorbike. He did two laps of the meadow before disappearing off to his home in Linton Road.

Watch a video from the Grand Day Out and see more pictures at www.oxford.anglican.org/granddayout.

Photographs by Philip King, KT Bruce and Jo Duckles.

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Walking the Thames Pilgrim Way

AT LEAST 200 people joined Bishop John on the inaugural Thames Pilgrimage in September. Pilgrims of all ages took part in the event, which saw the party travel 104 miles from the very west of the diocese (at Radcot, near Lechlade) all the way to Wraysbury, on the border with the Diocese of London, *writes Sarah Meyrick*.

A small party of hardy walkers completed the whole distance but many more joined the bishop's party for a few days, or even just an hour or two. Each of the Area Bishops and Archdeacons also took part, as did the Director of Mission, Canon Dr Michael Beasley, and the Diocesan Secretary, Canon Rosemary Pearce. The Bishops of Kimberley and Kuruman, and of Växjö, who were in Oxford for the Grand Day Out, also walked part of the route.

"It was a wonderful time," said Bishop John. "It was everything I hoped it would be. I was really touched by the number of people who joined me on the pilgrimage, and overwhelmed by the generosity of the parishes who welcomed us on our way. We were blessed with glorious sunshine which really was the icing on the cake."

"We were blessed with glorious sunshine... "

Each day started with a short reflection at 10am before the walk began. After lunch there was another reflection, and then the pilgrims spent some time in prayerful silence as they walked, considering a particular theme. The days ended with tea, cake and evening worship. Bishop John and one or two others stayed overnight in the 'host' parishes along the way.

The party was supported by a boat, *Running Wild*, allowing pilgrims to take occasional breaks where necessary. Bishop John, who unexpectedly had to have a stent fitted a week before setting out, took advantage of this from time to time. "The parishes came up with all sorts of interesting ways of greeting us," he said. "I planted a tree in Moulsford, I prayed over the reopened bridge at Pangbourne, we were joined by children from five of our church primary schools and we had breakfast with sixth formers at Shiplake College. We arrived to the sound of bells ringing, a brass band playing, a choir singing - and the most wonderful spread of scones and cakes."

"Having walked with Bishop John and other pilgrims for ten days, I can vouch wholeheartedly for the refreshing and unburdening nature of the experience," said Beryl Maw, one of the pilgrims who completed the 104 miles. "My abiding memory is the fellowship of other pilgrims and the outstanding hospitality we received from parishes along the way. Throughout the pilgrimage, there was a constant exchange of giving and receiving, a nourishing flow of sharing and just 'being'." The walk ended with an open air service and hog roast organised by the Deanery of Burnham and Slough in Wraysbury. The Revd Rod Cosh, Area Dean of Burnham and Slough, said: "It was wonderful to see Bishop John and the pilgrims arriving by boat at the end of their walk. To be able to share in the end of this expedition through worship and fun was a real delight that will be long remembered in the Deanery."

For more see www.thamespilgrimway.org.uk for stages, maps and reflections. Photos: Andrew Burnett, KT Bruce and Sarah Meyrick.

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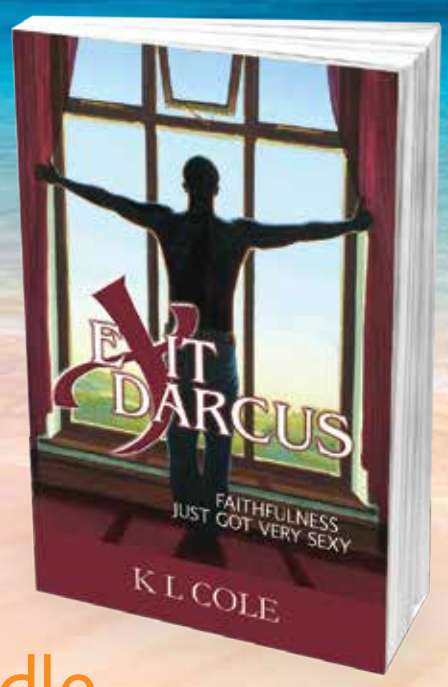

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Georgia, PACT Dual Approved carer

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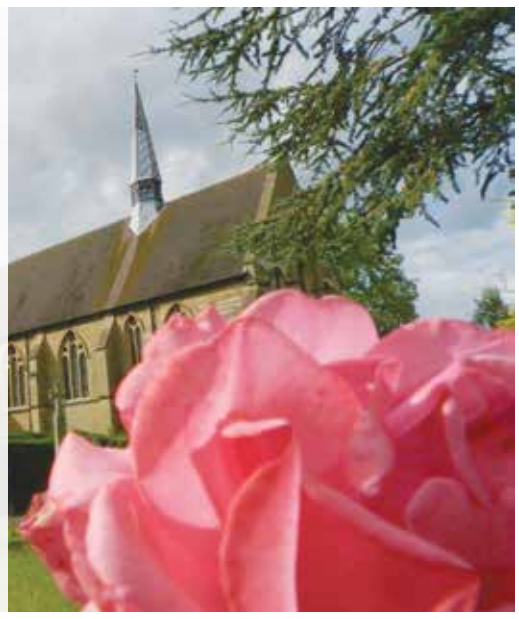

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

Ex 15:11

Last thoughts before the removal van arrives...

by John Pritchard

I'm sadly leaving this lovely Diocese of Oxford after seven years as bishop. If you've ever wondered what the scattered life of this bishop has been about, let me tell you what I've been trying to do.

I've long thought that the task of a bishop can be described under five headings. The first is to be a **leader in mission.** I wanted us to put mission front and centre in our thinking – reaching out with the love of God wherever it would take us. So Living Faith has been a missional framework, with sustaining the sacred centre as the essential core, and making disciples and making a real difference in our communities as the fruit of that spirituality. Inevitably it would need vibrant Christian communities and confident collaborative leadership to achieve those goals.

We also needed to align our structures around mission, so a Department and Director of Mission became part of the plot. And we've had a heap of activities, conferences and resources to support Living Faith. I believe we've got onto the front foot in mission.

The second task of a bishop is to be a **teacher of the faith**. I've tried to do this in a number of ways. I've accepted every invitation I could to preach, lead Lent and Advent courses, to lecture, teach and write. The writing has been in short form (the Simple Guides to Prayer, Reading the Bible, Christianity and so on) and longer form in the shape of *Living Jesus*, *Living Faithfully*, *God Lost and Found, Ten* and other books. "When have you found time to write," I'm often asked. "I've no idea" I answer, "I just need to do it." Above all I've wanted to make the Christian faith accessible, interesting and attractive, both for the faithful and those on the edge who might be persuaded to dip in and try a page or two.

My third task, as I've seen it, has been to be a **chief pastor**. It's been more than a little frustrating to have such a huge diocese with 815 churches and over 600 priests, and therefore little chance of being more than an episcopal rumour to most people. But I've tried to "put myself about" and to warm up the heart of the diocese. My greatest pleasure has been to be with the wonderful clergy and people of God on Sundays, trying to fit in, to encourage and to enjoy the varied life and worship of our churches and chaplaincies. And the key art, I believe, in all pastoral encounters, is to be absolutely attentive to the person before you. Everyone deserves 100 per cent attention for the duration of the conversation. Then you move on. I can't help, however inadequately, to be a pastor.

> *"I've wanted to make the Christian faith accessible, interesting and attractive..."*

Fourthly, a bishop is meant to be a **focus of unity**. It has often been put to me that we have been quite divided as a diocese, especially over gender issues. I've not tried to hide my convictions (for example, on women in the episcopate) or my on-going thinking (for example, on same-sex relationships), but I have tried to hold us together in conversations of courtesy and grace, believing that God is greater than all our partial understandings of his will, and that humility and generosity are always proper attitudes to employ. I think we're still in one piece...

Fifth, a bishop is supposed to be an **apostle** in the disputed territory of contemporary society. My main arena for this ministry has been as lead bishop on education for the Church of England, a fascinating role at a time of tectonic shifts in the educational landscape. I've spent much more time than I expected talking to government ministers, select committees, headteacher conferences, Directors of Education, clergy study days, cathedral congregations, university audiences, lawyers, Archbishops' Council, General Synod, Radio 4, the *Times Educational Supplement,* and all points in between. It's been fascinating speaking in the Lords but nowhere better than in schools all over the diocese where the day to day nurturing of our children goes on.

Yes, there have been other jobs – the Ministry Council, presiding over St John's College Durham, a Board member of Church Army and so on. Travel to Kimberly and Kuruman, and to Växjö has been wonderful. A weekend at Sandringham was surreal. Walking the Thames Path was a joy, and our clergy conference a delight. So much to relish.

But I know I will have inadvertently hurt some and disappointed others, and you will have been too gracious to tell me. So can I simply apologise for those times when I have trodden on your foot or simply messed up. I didn't mean it and I'm sorry.

But my abiding feeling is one of immense gratitude to the wonderful people of this diocese and to the gracious God who, extraordinarily, entrusted me with this joyful privilege for seven years. To God be all glory.

The Rt Revd John Pritchard retires on 31 October 2014.

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Deadline for the December issue: Friday 31 October.
Published: Monday 17 November.

The Door is published by Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance (Diocesan Secretary Mrs Rosemary Pearce). The registered office is Diocesan Church House, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford, OX2 ONB. Tel: 01865 208200. While every care is taken to ensure the reliability of our advertisements, their inclusion in The Door does not guarantee it or mean that they are endorsed by the Diocese of Oxford.

Audio version

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IAN Bensted has devoted his life to ensuring people in the south-east of England, and parts of south-west Uganda, have adequate water and sanitation services. The retired civil engineer and Licensed Lay Minister tells Jo Duckles his story.

Ian, who was born two months after the start of World War Two, was brought up in Orpington, Kent, and now lives in Oxfordshire with his wife, retired adoption worker Ellie. I met the couple at their home, around the corner from St Nicholas Church, Fyfield. They had just come from a Bible study group for 10 people.

Ian, a founding member of the charity WATSAN Uganda, described his childhood: "I remember crouching under the dining table with my mother, sheltering from the doodlebugs, and the disturbing images of the relief of Belsen. I asked my mother why those poor people couldn't be given food." Ian was walking home from school as a five-year-old when the last but one German V2 demolished homes nearby.

Ellie and Ian at home in Fyfield. ***Photo Jo Duckles.***

Despite the War, Ian had a secure upbringing with parents who were churchgoers and a father particularly who had a real Christian faith. "I became really interested in Christianity through a school friend whose family were missionaries in Burma during the war. They had recently come home and impressed me. The way they lived and behaved showed me what being a Christian was really about.

"I gave my life to Christ when I was 16 after I had begun to understand the all-embracing nature of the Christian gospel. It's given me a moral compass, meaning, purpose and inspiration for my life ever since."

Ian studied civil engineering at Bristol before joining the Metropolitan Water Board, the organisation then responsible for London's water supply. Later he was involved with the reorganisation of around 140 water and sanitation organisations that became what we now know as Thames Water. His career saw him working on the planning and construction of deep tunnels that bring water to customers across the Thames region, and reservoirs, including the Queen Mother Reservoir at Datchet.

His involvement with developing countries began in the 1980s when he became the newly founded WaterAid's voluntary Engineering Advisor in Uganda. He ran the London Marathon 12 times for WaterAid.

Around that time Thames Water was privatised and Ian later led the planning and development of the Thames Water Ring Main, an infrastructure deep below ground, much of it underneath the London Tube system, which now supplies water to homes and businesses in the capital.

"It was in the year 2000 that WaterAid decided they needed to move into some particularly challenging areas of northern Uganda", says Ian. To enable the work in North Kigezi to continue, Ian, with WaterAid's blessing, got together with friends in the UK as founder members of the UK support arm of WATSAN in 2002, serving the project jointly managed in the field by the Church of Uganda Dioceses of North Kigezi and Kinkiizi.

Ian became the chairperson in 2006, and WATSAN became a registered charity. The WATSAN Ugandan team provide health and hygiene education, as well as fresh, clean water and basic sanitation to villages, including eco-toilets, which produce fertiliser for crops. "As far as we are concerned encouraging and supporting this work is a way of demonstrating our Christian faith in deeds as well as words." WATSAN UK's support and fundraising work is carried out by Ian and Ellie together with four other experienced Trustees, several of whom have previously worked in Uganda.

Having met in their church youth group, Ian and Ellie were married 47 years ago, after Ellie had graduated with a degree in German and English, and completed her social work training in Oxford. They lived in Blackheath, London, for 35 years, and moved to Oxfordshire after Ian retired and began international consultancy work, advising Thames Water on new businesses across the world, and governments in the Far East on the management of water services.

Ian had been an LLM in the Southwark diocese since 1978, and continued with that role in Oxford. "I was fortunate to receive a pretty good grounding in the foundations of Christian faith at Christ Church, Orpington, particularly in the authority of the Bible, and that it is 'by grace we are saved'. There is no way we can earn our salvation by doing good works, but obedience to the moral compass set out in scripture is paramount."

Ian's main hobby is golf, and he and Ellie are keen walkers who have climbed all the 188 peaks over 2,000 feet in Wales. Three years ago 30 WATSAN supporters, including their patron, Bishop Andrew of Aston (now Bishop elect of Guildford), walked the 26-mile Mary Jones Trail to raise funds for a new vehicle for WATSAN.

Ian is an LLM in Fyfield with Tubney and Kingston Bagpuize, and he and Ellie have links with St. Ebbe's in Oxford. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

If you would like to support WATSAN or join the next "Walk for Water" in the Shropshire Hills in June next year contact Ian and Ellie on bensted@easynet.co.uk , or visit www.nkkdwatsan-uganda.com .

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Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

Pull this section out. Keep it handy for your own prayers and involvement in the Diocese.

Paddling towards rest

by *Andrew Proud*

I bought this woodcut in Arba Minch, a medium-sized country town on the shores of Lake Chamo, in southern Ethiopia. The lake has been vital to the local economy for centuries. It is vast and popular with Ethiopian tourists for its forty springs, its fat and fearsome crocodiles and its over-hunted, shy hippos.

The woodcut is filled, edge to edge, with a man paddling a small reed boat, which looks like a coracle. We don't know if he is straining to paddle into a headwind, or to escape the frightened hippos, but I love the way he is straining forward, reaching out with all his might to pull the paddle through the water.

I have it above the computer on my desk, where it reminds me of Ethiopia and the Breton fisherman's prayer: "Lord my boat is so small and your ocean is so big". Apparently, John F Kennedy kept that on a plaque in his office in the White House.

"Lord my boat is so small and your ocean is so big."

There are several Biblical resonances here: of the vulnerability of Jonah in a terrible storm at sea; and the disciples in a terrible storm on the lake; and Paul being shipwrecked off Malta.

There have been many times in my life when that little 'arrow' prayer has kept me going.

For the truth is that even when there are people around us and we have great colleagues, as I have, it can often feel as if we are in it up to our necks, as if we are totally alone with the struggles and challenges we face.

Perhaps there is something important, spiritually, about feeling that we are in a small boat alone? To be stripped of the things we rely on and to be without distractions, so that all we can do is paddle on and abandon ourselves to Divine providence.

In a competitive world, where we are constantly being encouraged to measure ourselves against others: to look bigger, fitter, smarter, more beautiful, thinner, this reminds me to compare myself with myself. Am I more faithful now than I was five years ago? Am I still reaching out to trust God with my future and my destiny? Am I becoming fully the person God made me to be?

Just as people living on the shore of Lake Chamo still have to maintain their small reed boats, this woodcut challenges me about the routines by which I maintain my own discipleship. John Cassian, a fourth century Romanian Christian, who was ordained deacon by John Chrysostom and priest by Pope Leo the Great, recommends a dialogue with God which is silent, relaxed and trustful. Can you, we wonder, pull the paddle through the water when you are relaxed? Yes, I think so, as long as it is a matter of style over brute force: drawing the paddle through the greatest stretch of water your small boat and paddle will allow. Cassian suggested frequent prayers, but short ones, to avoid distraction. When we're in trouble and haven't got time to pray at length, a quick "Lord my boat is so small and your ocean so big" can see us through, because God is always faithful.

"There are many places of refuge for us along the way..."

The man in the woodcut strains against paddle and headwind permanently, but anyone paddling across Lake Chamo today will eventually arrive at their destination: refuge, shelter, rest, peace and refreshment. There are many places of refuge for us along the way, places to take shelter and people to take shelter with. And our ultimate goal, of course, is the shelter, joy and worship of heaven.

The Rt Revd Andrew Proud is the Bishop of Reading.

The muddy curate continues

The Revd Sue Morton continues her reflections on life as a new curate in Oxford Diocese.

I have been a curate for 52 days. Some of those days have been amazing, some have been surprising and others downright disastrous; I am learning that life in rural ministry is never dull! I keep recalling a story that Bishop John told of a small child from his church school who said, on seeing him wearing a cassock, 'Mr Pritchard are you pretending to be a vicar?' The first days of curacy have that feel about them - I have felt rather like an undercover curate. And there have been highlights and lowlights.

Having spent hours carefully crafting my first sermon I managed to fall down the pulpit steps before I had even delivered it. I ended up preaching standing on one leg, trying to ignore a twisted ankle and feeling as though my pride had been distinctly dented. And the theme of my sermon? Humility.

I have learnt to drive between six village churches, along narrow leafy lanes without getting lost; I have perfected the art of silent deaconing when losing my voice. I have managed to sail though a service, ignoring the reader and his carefully practised epistle, miss out the following hymn and, quite unknowingly, throw a small congregation into confusion.

"I ended up preaching on one leg, trying to ignore a twisted ankle..."

I have been terrified by the barking Great Dane that stood between me and my car and had to get a lift to the next church service (I was told later that I had been in grave danger of being licked to death); I have emerged from the harvest festival service on a warm sunny day to find the village covered in snow - ready for filming a certain department store's Christmas advertisement.

I have broken down (the car, not me, although it's been a close run thing at times) and had to drive a variety of

borrowed vehicles in order to get from one village to the next – a good way of remaining undercover! I have taken large school assemblies on weekdays and preached to small congregations of faithful parishioners on Sundays.

I have taken part in Initial Ministerial Education courses provided by the diocese. I have written sermons; I have written prayers; I have read tricky passages from the King James Bible; I have dashed robed from one village church to another, trying not to get muddy.

And sometimes it is a bit like pretending to be a curate; sometimes I do feel as though I'm working undercover and that my cover might be blown at any moment. But being an undercover curate means staying under the cover of God's wing, it means staying under the cover of his feathers. And that surely is the safest place to be.

The Revd Sue Morton is a curate in the Hambleden Valley.

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November prayer diary

The following is for guidance only, please feel free to adapt to local condit

Our purpose is to create a caring, sustainable and growing Christian presence in every part of the Diocese of Oxford.

'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.' Luke 6:38

Pray to the Father through the Son in the power of the Spirit for:

SATURDAY 1 *All Saints*. **Bradfield Deanery**. Will Watts, Emma Sanderson, Kevin Lovell and Michael Betts. Please give thanks for the Spiritual Development Group which runs courses and events to promote theological study and application to contemporary culture across the deanery and for a number of churches looking at various building projects ranging from a whole new church through to simply providing a toilet.

MONDAY 3 Aldermaston and Woolhampton. Becky Bevan, Pat Bhutta and Hanslip Long. Please pray for our ministry with the six schools in the benefice and for our new building projects at Beenham and Aldermaston. Brimpton (VC), Woolhampton (VA) and Aldermaston (VC) Schools.

TUESDAY 4 Basildon with Aldworth and Ashampstead. Will Watts, Jonathan Sandbach. Basildon (VC) School. Please pray for the first round of the formal election for the new Bishop of Växjö – for all candidates, the electors, those who receive the highest number of votes and the people of the Diocese of Växjö.

WEDNESDAY 5 Bradfield and Stanford Dingley. Julian Gadsby, Lyn Bliss. Bradfield (VA) School.

THURSDAY 6 Bucklebury. Julian Gadsby, Rosemary Green, Michael Kerry, David Sammon. Bucklebury (VC) School. Burghfield. Gill Lovell, Alison Jones and Kevin Lovell. Please pray for continued growth and vibrancy of our church; God's blessing through our new lay leaders; Our work with young families, teenagers and the elderly isolated. Burghfield St Mary's (VC) School.

FRIDAY 7 Sulhamstead Abbots and Bannister with Ufton Nervet. Please pray for this benefice which is currently vacant with the Area Dean acting as Priest in Charge while they explore possible ways to make it sustainable. Sulhampstead/Ufton Nervet (VA) School.

LIVING FAITH SUSTAINING THE SACRED CENTRE

SATURDAY 8 Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham. Heather Parbury, Andrew Bond and Judith Sumner. For our ministry team of lay and ordained ministers and wardens. We are celebrating long term faithful ministries and newly found vocations as we seek guidance for the future and wisdom in making changes. Purley. David Archer and Andrew Mackie. Purley (VC) School.

MONDAY 10 Stratfield Mortimer with Mortimer West End and Padworth. Paul Chaplin. Please pray for the renewal of the discipleship ministry and programmes; the mission and work of the local branch of the Royal British Legion. Mortimer St John's and St Mary's CE schools.

TUESDAY 11 Theale and Englefield. Ann and Peter Templeman, Nick Wynne-Jones, Chris Braddock. Theale (VC) and Englefield (VA) Schools.

WEDNESDAY 12 Buckingham Deanery. Ron Bundock, Georgie Christopher, Nicki Stuchbury, Paul Cresswell and Philip Derbyshire. Please pray for the renewing of God's Spirit particularly in the villages – that God's people grow in love of God and show it in their communities and for effective and imaginative ways to be found of spreading the Gospel.

THURSDAY 13 Buckingham. Will Pearson-Gee, Gussie Walsh, John King, Richard Rugg, Sandra Cosby, John Hamilton, Vicky Southby, Paul Wallace, and Valerie Evans. For the Thornborough Chancel roof project; the many spiritual 'green shoots' that have begun to show concerning the village families and for Buckingham Church: for continued growth and for people to get behind the new 'Vision for 2020'. Chackmore (VC) and Whaddon (VC) Schools.

FRIDAY 14 Lenborough. Ros Roberts, Kay Peck, John Wrigley, and Jenny Shields. Giving thanks to God for the richness and diversity of our benefice and those who through their faith in action meet the needs of our communities; growth and encouragement of Cafe Sunday services, their development and vision to enable people to meet God, and look for ways to adapt them for the other villages. Padbury (VC) School.

SATURDAY 15 North Buckingham. Hans Taling and Margaret Culley. Pray for wisdom and understanding the village identities in order to be effective in mission; for continuation of youth work in finding the right youth worker/ assistant; for regular visitors to our churches to become active members. Akeley St James (VC) and Maids Moreton (VC) Schools. Pray for our Diocesan Synod which takes place today.

MONDAY 17 Stowe. Please pray for continuing faithfulness and wisdom in choosing a new priest to enable the church to grow.

TUESDAY 18 West Buckingham. Liz Simpson. Please pray for Messy Church - small village populations and lack of leaders is always a challenge; and for effective witness to our neighbours.

WEDNESDAY 19 Aston and Cuddesdon Deanery. Alan Garratt, Simon Richards, Sue Tibbles, Michael Powell, Janet Pickard.

THURSDAY 20 Albury with Tiddington, Holton, Waterperry, Waterstock and Wheatley. Nigel Hawkes, Michael Grantham, Richard Bainbridge, Marian Brown, Albert Eastham, John Barker and Lucy Betts. For the 'bedding in' of the new Benefice and the maturing of supportive relationships between the parishes. For the churchwardens, officers and clergy as they explore the future direction of the Benefice. Wheatley Academy.

FRIDAY 21 Beckley, Forest Hill, Horton cum Studley and Stanton St John. Andrew Pritchard-Keens and Hugh Lee.

SATURDAY 22 Garsington, Cuddesdon and Horspath. Emma Pennington and Mark Chapman. Please pray for the parishes as they enter this new phase of fellowship as a benefice and for the staff and governors of Ripon College Cuddesdon during the process of discerning a new Principal for the college. Garsington (VC) and Horspath (VC) Schools.

MONDAY 24 Benson. John Burrell.

Our Bishops on Sundays

SUNDAY 2 *All Souls Day.*

SUNDAY 9 Remembrance Sunday.

SUNDAY 16 Bishop Colin confirming at Radley College. Bishop John confirming at Headington School and St Andrew's, Headington and also at St Mary's, Kidlington. Bishop Alan confirming at Milton Keynes LEP.

SUNDAY 23 Bishop John confirming at Headington Quarry and St Andrew's, Oxford. Bishop Andrew confirming at Reading Minster. Bishop Alan confirming in Aylesbury.

SUNDAY 30 Advent Sunday. St Andrew. Bishop Colin confirming in the Wykeham Benefice, Bishop Andrew confirming in the Bradfield Deanery, Bishop Alan confirming in Claydon.

ions and, if you wish, produce your own deanery prayer diaries.

Please pray for the new initiatives of the Janaway lecture series, Messy Church and the Advent course and for the parish away day – that we may give thanks for God's love and provision, be open to new ways of doing things and find a shared vision. Benson (VC)School.

TUESDAY 25 Chalgrove with Berrick Salome. Ian Cohen and Bob Heath-Whyte. For Chalgrove St Mary, for our working in partnership with the village, the community, and Heritage Lottery Fund to restore and refurbish our church. For Berrick Salome St Helen please pray for the refurbishment of the bells, that the whole village may be blessed for its generosity.

WEDNESDAY 26 Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant and Crowell. For ministers and churchwardens. Aston Rowant (VC) and Chinnor St Andrew's (VC) Schools. **Thame Team Ministry.** Alan Garratt, Peter Waterson, Graham Choldcroft, Emma Racklyeft, Janet Pickard and Geoffrey Rushman. Lewknor (VC) School.

THURSDAY 27 Dorchester Team Ministry and Warborough. Sue Booys, Paul Cawthorne, Caroline King, Anne Ilsley, David Haylett, Michael Lakey, Jennifer Morton, Brian Newey and Edna Strange. Our Mission Hub and their work and for the Dorchester Team as we encourage a further cohort to attend the Leading your Church into Growth course next Spring; for our friendship with the parish of Boegoeberg in Kimberley and Kuruman; for the Reverend Michael Lakey who has joined us and for conversations with a potential Stipendiary Curate to join us in 2015. St Birinus (VC), Clifton Hampden (VC), Culham Parochial (VC), Long Wittenham (VC) and Marsh Baldon (VC) Schools.

FRIDAY 28 Ewelme, Brightwell Baldwin and Cuxham with Easington. Jonathan Meyer and team. Ewelme (VA) School.

SATURDAY 29 Great Milton with Little Milton and Great Haseley. Victor Story, Tony Jefferis, Toby Garfitt. For a deepening and enlarging of the ministry to the children and staff in Great and Little Milton Schools and the monthly outreach in Haseley through their family service. Great Milton (VC) and Little Milton (VA) Schools. **Icknield.** Christopher Evans, Lucie Astin and Angie Paterson.

Prayer for the Bishop of Oxford vacancy

Gracious Lord and shepherd of your pilgrim Church,
We bless you and praise you that you have gathered us,
from across this Diocese,
to be one flock, within one fold.

By your Spirit,
Give us wisdom, courage and faith
as we seek a faithful pastor who will
sustain us on the journey
feed us with word and sacrament
and nurture our 'Living Faith'
inspiring us to follow you ever more closely.

This we ask in the name of Jesus,
our loving, faithful shepherd
who is the beginning
and the end
of all that we are
and seek
and do.
Amen.

The Bishop of Oxford's Crozier. *Photo: Graham Sykes.*

Red ceramic poppies at the foot of the Tower of London mark the 100-year anniversary of the start of World War One. Each poppy represents a soldier killed in the War. *Photo: iStock.*

Coming and Goings

The Revd Rosanna Martin will be leaving her post as Priest in Charge of Uffington, Shellingford, Woolstone and Baulking; **The Revd Cath Spence** will be taking up post as Self-Supporting Associate Minister at Lodden Reach; **The Revd Caroline Symcox** will be leaving her post as Curate in Training at Amersham with Coleshill.

The following have been given Permission to Officate: **The Revd Ron Bundock** (he will continue as Area Dean of Buckingham until 2016); **The Revd Wendy Wale; The Revd Colin Smith; The Revd Janet Lawrence; The Ven Ray Pentland; The Revd Angela Gosden; The Revd Rosemary Green; The Revd Jean Rothery; The Revd David Little.** We recall with sadness the deaths of: **The Very Revd Jeffrey Fenwick; The Revd Rayner Harries; The Revd Basil Hazledine and The Rt Revd Michael Scott-Joynt.**

Services at Christ Church Cathedral

SUNDAYS: 8am Holy Communion; 10am Matins (coffee in Priory Room); 11.15am Sung Eucharist; 6pm Evensong.

WEEKDAYS: 7.15am Morning Prayer; 7.35am Holy Communion; 1pm (Wednesday only) Holy Communion; 6pm Evensong (Thursday Sung Eucharist 6pm).

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Proverbs 16 vs 3 (NRSV)

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thedoorpost

Courses, training, conferences and workshops in November

The Doorpost is a free service for churches to advertise their events and is designed to be hung on church noticeboards. Please send your events to doorpost@oxford.anglican.org or by post to Church House. The deadline for the next issue is **Friday 31 October.**

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER

Stoge Poges: Lest We Forget: A concert featuring popular WW1 songs, poems and reflections at St Giles Church at 6.30pm. Email merlin.hj@clara.co.uk for details.

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER

Oxford: All Souls' Day - a Choral Requiem at Christ Church Cathedral at 6pm sung by the Cathedral Choir. Phone 01865 276155 or see www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral for details.

Bicester: St Edburg's Foundation photographic competition and exhibition and AGM will take place at 7pm in St Edburg's Church. Free entry and all welcome.

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Oxford: The Recollection Series of lectures are being held at Pusey House on Wednesdays from 2pm - 4pm. Details at www.puseyhouse.org.uk

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER

Oxford: Westminster Faith Debate at University Church of St Mary the Virgin from 5.30pm to 7pm. 'People - How can Anglicans of all kinds be engaged in the Church of the Future?'. Details at www.faithdebates.org.uk

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER

Near Maidenhead: Oxon Spice - a quiet day for clergy spouses in the Diocese of Oxford. An opportunity for time out as Advent approaches - led by Revd Meg Heywood. The day is from 10am - 4pm at St Mary the Virgin, Hurley. Email oxonspice@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07780 954879 for details.

Oxford: Open study day at St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality (OX2 6LU) from 10.30am to 4pm. 'A day with Julian of Norwich' by Revd Emma Pennington. Phone 01865 310341 for details.

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER

Wallingford: A discussion in commemoration of WW1 - 'What we would fight for: what would three 17-year-old give their lives for today?' Key speakers are sixth formers from Wallingford . Event begins at 3.30pm in St Mary's Church.

Oxford: After Eight worship and discussions begin at Christ Church Cathedral today and every Sunday throughout November at 8pm. Theme is 'A Particular Place'. Details at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Oxford: A Service of Remembrance will take place in Christ Church Cathedral at 10.45am.

THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER

Oxford: The Cranmer Heats will held at Magdalen College School at 4pm. If you wish to register please phone 01189 842582 or email pbs.admin@pbs.org.uk

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER

Bicester: Trinity Camerata family friendly concert at 3.45pm in St Edburg's Church. Adults £10 on the door. Under 16s and all teddy bears free.

MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER

Oxford: The Oxford Council for Christians and Jews are holding a film night at 7.30pm at the Oxford Jewish Centre, Richmond Road OX1 2JL. The film to be shown is 'The Jewish Cardinal'. Phone 01865 558226 for details.

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER

Oxford: The Retired Clergy Association meeting will take place in the Priory Room at Christ Church Cathedral at 10.15am (coffee), followed by talk on 'When God steps in' by Canon Michael Green. Lunch in the hall at 12.30pm (you must book lunch). Phone 01635 281704.

Oxford: Westminster Faith Debate at University Church of St Mary the Virgin from 5.30pm to 7pm. 'Diversity - What kind of unity is appropriate nationally and internationally, how can diversity become a strength?' The Bishop of Buckingham is one of the speakers. Details at www.faithdebates.org.uk

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER

Witney: Christmas gift fair - a candlelit evening with mulled wine and live music at St Mary's Cogges, OX28 3LA from 5pm - 9pm. Phone 01993 779613 for details.

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER

Oxford: Open study day at St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality (OX2 6LU) from 10.30am to 4pm. 'Christian Spirituality in Poetry, East and West'. Phone 01865 310341 for details.

Charlbury: St Mary's Church at 7pm - An illustrated talk on 'Roman Britain from the Air' by Michael Scott. Tickets £10 (include wine and canapés). Email art@amandacooper.co.uk or phone 01608 676504 for details.

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER

Witney: The Lower Windrush Choral Society will perform a concert of seasonal music at St Mary's Cogges at 3pm. Phone 01865 300625 for ticket details or see www.lowerwindrush.co.uk

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

Turville: Hambleden Valley, near Henley. Healing service with laying on of hands and anointing at Holy Communion at 10.15am. Details 01491 571231.

SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER

Standlake: The Lower Windrush Choral Society will perform a concert of seasonal music at St Giles Church, OX29 7SG at 7.30pm. Phone 01865 300625 for ticket details or see www.lowerwindrush.co.uk

Appleton: Church Bazaar from 2pm to 4pm in the village hall. Many interesting stalls and homemade teas.

Marston: A practical 'Worship Works' day for choirs, music groups, leaders and congregations at Marston URC OX3 0JB. Open to all denominations. Registration at 10am - event finishes at 4.30pm. Email christianmusicfellowship@talktalk.net for details. Cost £7.50.

SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER

Chalgrove: A concert by the Kingston Chamber Orchestra will take place from 3pm to 5pm at St Mary's Church. Teas served at 4.15pm. Donations of £5 suggested in aid of their conservation and refurbishment appeal. Phone 01865 400402 for details.

Amersham: St Michael and All Angels are holding an Advent carol service at 6pm. See www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk

Courses and Special Events

Quiet Day to explore Vocation: This day will be led by the Bishop of Reading and is being held at Douai Abbey, Berkshire from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 8 November. Numbers are limited and there will be a suggested voluntary donation towards the day (no more than £25). Please book your place by emailing Revd Anna Harwood harwoodanna@yahoo.co.uk. Lunch will be provided.

Introduction to the Church of England: Do you know your Chancel from your Chancellor? This day will explain the history and structures of the Church to help you understand it's unique DNA. The course is from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 15 November at Diocesan Church House OX2 0NB. Cost £20 (bring a packed lunch). Email carolyn.main@oxford.anglican.org to book your place. See www.oxford.anglican.org/our-faith/lifelong-learning

Clergy Marriage Retreat: This weekend retreat will take place at Wiston House from 21 to 23 November. Wiston House provides a beautiful, tranquil setting. The weekend will provide an opportunity for those attending to invest in their own marriage, have time together as a couple and talk about important issues. The cost per couple including food and accommodation is £390. CMD funding may be available towards this cost. There is a bursary fund for any couple who needs it. See http://tinyurl.com/jwjdfk4 for details or email davebull@marlowanglican.org